

# Montana State Legislature

2009 Session

## **Exhibit** 19

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**Montana Historical Society  
Archives, 225 N. Roberts, Helena,  
MT 59620-1201  
Phone (406) 444-4774.**

Scanning by: Susie Hamilton

# CAN YOU TURN A WOLF INTO A DOG?

EXHIBIT 19

DATE 3/17/09

SB 344



Commonly Asked Questions  
About Having  
Wolves and Hybrids as Pets

**W**e'd like to make the booklet available to animal shelters, veterinarians, pet stores, wolf organizations and individuals who want to learn the facts about this issue or see value in passing the booklet on to people thinking of getting a hybrid. In terms of distribution we can only accomplish so much—and that's where you come in. If you work or volunteer at an animal shelter, you've dealt with hybrids and know the need for educating people before they buy a cute hybrid puppy and then bring it to you to deal with 18 months later. Ask your veterinarian, animal shelter, and pet shop owner if they're interested in making the booklet available. For a single copy send \$2.00 to the address listed below. For information on bulk rates write to:



## **Wild Sentry**

**The Northern Rockies Ambassador Wolf Program**

**Box 172**

**Hamilton, Montana 59840**

**E-Mail:**

**Web Site**

**wildsentry.org**

**Pat Tucker 406-363-7291**

## List of Questions

- 1 Is there really a difference between wolves and dogs?
- 2 What is a hybrid?
- 3 How can I tell if Tundra is 63.5% Arctic wolf and 36.5 % malamute?
- 4 What are the physical differences between wolves, hybrids and dogs?
- 5 My friend says her animal is 98% wolf, but it acts like a dog; why?
- 6 What behaviors will a wolf or hybrid exhibit that dogs generally don't?
- 7 Does environment and handling have any effect on a wolf or hybrid's behavior, or is it all genetic?
- 8 Can you train a wolf or hybrid to obey commands?
- 9 My neighbor's hybrid was wonderful with the kids. If you raise a hybrid right, won't it be a good pet?
- 10 My friend's 89% wolf hybrid is a year old. It's not aggressive around dogs and doesn't kill cats. Won't it stay that way?
- 11 Are wolves and hybrids really more dangerous than dogs?
- 12 Are wolves and hybrids good guard animals?
- 13 Don't native people breed their sled dogs with wolves to create stronger pullers? Wasn't Balto (the famous sled dog that carried serum to Nome, Alaska during a diphtheria epidemic) a hybrid?
- 14 Aren't wolves and hybrids healthier and smarter than dogs?
- 15 Won't neutering a wolf or hybrid make it easier to handle?"
- 16 Couldn't you create a good hybrid pet by breeding hybrids back to dogs for several generations or selectively breeding captive wolves to be less territorial and predatory?
- 17 A hybrid breeder told me that hybrids don't make good pets and shouldn't be considered pets, but that they can be your 'best friend.' What does that mean?
- 18 Is it legal for people to own wolves and hybrids?
- 19 I'm concerned about a hybrid a couple blocks away. What should I do?
- 20 What should I teach my child about behavior around canines?
- 21 I understand all the issues and I'm going to get a hybrid anyway. What do I need to do to keep one safely and humanely?
- 22 I made a mistake and got a hybrid without fully understanding what I was getting into. I can't keep it safely anymore. What should I do?
- 23 Couldn't I just release it into the wild?
- 24 Does private ownership of a captive wolf or hybrid contribute to the survival of wolves in the wild?
- 25 Is there any reason to breed and maintain wolves in captivity?
- 26 Are you saying that captive wolves and hybrids should be euthanized?
- 27 Conclusion: Letter from a Hybrid Owner:  
References and More Reading

